

How Long Should I Water?

The following are suggested schedules for watering selected types of plants with selected types of sprinkler heads. Results will vary depending upon the condition and layout of the irrigation system, and the physical characteristics of the land. The schedules assume a condition of clay, or slow draining soil. If faster draining soil exists, then less cycles of longer duration can be used. These schedules are meant only as a guide. Individual sites will vary and will need to be adjusted accordingly. The best time to water is in the early morning hours. Allow 30 to 60 minutes between watering cycles so water has a chance to soak in the soil. The heavier the soil, the longer the soak time needed. As water needs increase, don't add time to cycles, or you will get runoff. Instead, add cycles if a small increase in watering is needed. Otherwise, add watering days. High water use plants would be considered common cool-season grasses such as Tall Fescue (Marathon, etc.). Lawns don't need water every day. Low water use plants would be most trees and established shrubs.

SPRAY HEADS – High Water Use Plants

Month	Watering days per week	Cycles per day	Minutes per cycle
January	2	3	3
April	3	4	4
July*	4	4	4
October	3	3	4

*Extreme temperatures will require more water.

SPRAY HEADS – Low Water Use Plants

Month	Watering days per week	Cycles per day	Minutes per cycle
January	1	2	4
April	2	3	3
July	2	3	4
October	1	3	4

ROTOR HEADS – High Water Use Plants

Month	Watering days per week	Cycles per day	Minutes per cycle
January	2	3	14
April	3	4	15
July*	4	4	15
October	3	3	15

*Extreme temperatures will require more water.

ROTOR HEADS – Low Water Use Plants

Month	Watering days per week	Cycles per day	Minutes per cycle
January	1	2	17
April	2	3	12
July	2	3	16
October	1	4	14